FORBESTOWN FIRE SALVAGE PROJECT

PROPOSAL

Background the North Complex Fire began with a series of lightning strikes August 17, 2020. The Claremont Fire and Bear Fire located on the Plumas National Forest merged and on September 8, 2020 spotted across the Middle Fork Feather River, entered Butte County, and traveled some 30 miles that day. The North Complex Fire has burned over 300,000 acres to date. Areas within the Forbestown IRSC, north of Lower Forbestown Road and Old Forbestown Road were burned in the North Complex Fire. Tree mortality has occurred in areas of mixed and high fire severity inside of sold green tree harvest units.

Proposed Project Location Forbestown Fire Salvage Project, PALS 59018. The project area is in and around the community of Forbestown, California. The area is classified as wildland-urban interface (WUI). Most of the area is comprised of Sierra mixed conifer consisting of ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, sugar pine, incense cedar, California black oak, Pacific madrone, tanoak, and white fir. We propose salvage activities on approximately 100 acres within the project area.

Proposed Project Action and Description salvage Cut (4231) an intermediate harvest removing trees which are dead or dying because of injurious agents other than competition, to recover economic value that would otherwise be lost. Salvage will be conducted following designation by damage class (attachment A). Follow marking guidelines for fire-injured trees in California (Smith and Cluck 2011). No sawlog diameter limits for salvage cut. SNFPA guidelines for snag retention apply.

Purpose of Action We propose to remove fire killed trees that would become dangerous fuels, to reduce the risk or extent of, or increase the resilience to, wildfires. These dead, dying, and structurally damaged trees present a safety hazard and risk to forest visitors, neighboring landowners and their homes, employees, and facilities.

Need for Action The January, 2004, Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment provides for ecosystem restoration following catastrophic disturbance events through the salvage harvest of dead and dying trees conducted to recover the economic value of this material and to support objectives for reducing hazardous fuels, improving forest health, reintroducing fire, and/or reestablishing forested conditions.

Providing socioeconomic benefits, including the provision of a sustainable supply of timber, is part of the mandate of the USDA Forest Service. Providing adequate timber supplies contributes to the economic stability of rural communities in Sierra Nevada forests.